

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary of the Office Action:

Claims 1-67 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 48, 50, 53, and 67 have been amended. Claim 12 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13-15, 48-54 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brock et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0087048 A1).

Claims 5-7, 10-12, and 16-19 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 20-47 and 55-66 have been allowed.

Applicant's Response:

A. Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13-15, 48-54 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brock et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0087048 A1).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 12, which has been indicated as being allowable, such that amended claim 1 recites “at least one of the sections being comprised of a plurality of adjacent links.” Claim 12 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Brock et al. and dependent claims 2-4, 8, 9, and 13-15, which depend ultimately from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claims 48, 53, and 67 have also been amended to recite “at least one of the sections being comprised of a plurality of adjacent links”. Brock et al. fails to teach such a feature and the amended claims are patentable over Brock et al., either alone or in combination with any

other reference, for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 49-52 and 54 depend ultimately from claims 48 and 53, respectively, and are patentable over Brock et al. for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brock et al.

B. Claims 5-7, 10-12, and 16-19 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 20-47 and 55-66 have been allowed.

Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter with thanks. However, in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants contend that all claims are patentable and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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